

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (withdrawn) A system for treating a fluid waste;
an RF plasma wave generator that produces waves; and
a conduit that carries the waste past the waves.
2. (withdrawn) The device of claim 1 further comprising a holding tank upstream of the wave generator, which contains at least some of the waste for at least one hour.
3. (withdrawn) The device of claim 2 wherein the holding tank contains an inlet that is fluidly downstream of a toilet.
4. (withdrawn) A municipal waste processing facility that includes a device according to claim 3.
5. (withdrawn) A ship that includes a device according to claim 3.
6. (withdrawn) The device of claim 1 further comprising a sewer that carries at least some of the fluid waste to the conduit.
7. (withdrawn) The device of claim 1 wherein the conduit carries the waste in at least two substantially separate streams past the waves, and then recombines the separate streams.
8. (withdrawn) The device of claim 1 further comprising a filter fluidly positioned upstream of the RF plasma wave generator.
9. (withdrawn) The device of claim 1 further comprising a second conduit that carries a portion of the waste in a pathway that bypasses the waves from the RF plasma wave generator.
10. (withdrawn) The device of claim 1 wherein the RF plasma wave generator has a basic frequency of 0.44 MHz – 40.56 MHz.

11. (withdrawn) The device of claim 1 wherein the RF plasma wave generator has a modulation frequency of 10-35 kHz.
12. (currently amended) A method of reducing biological contamination in [[a]] an amount of waste, comprising:
providing an RF plasma wave generator; and
carrying the waste past waves produced by the RF plasma wave generator under conditions in which a substantial percentage of the population of a microbe in the waste is inactivated or killed, to produce a treated waste; and
without subjecting the waste directly to the plasma.
13. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 in which the substantial percentage is at least 50%.
14. (previously presented) The method of claim 12 in which the substantial percentage is at least 90%.
15. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising treating the waste at a rate of at least 20 l/hr, and discharging the treated waste into a navigable body of water.
16. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising treating the waste at a rate of at least 20 l/hr, and discharging the treated waste into a sewer.
17. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising treating the waste at a rate of at least 20 l/hr, and discharging the treated waste into a conduit in a municipal waste treatment plant.
18. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of providing an RF plasma wave generator comprises operating the generator at a basic frequency of 0.44 MHz – 40.56 MHz.
19. (previously presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the step of providing an RF plasma wave generator comprises operating the generator at a modulation frequency of 10-35 kHz.

20. (currently amended) The method of claim 12, further comprising treating the waste at a rate of at least 20 l/hr, and wherein the step of carrying the waste past the waves is carried out upon a ship.